

For Immediate Release – October 3, 2011

Contact: LuAnn Canipe, Communications Director/202.225.6089/ luann.canipe@mail.house.gov
[V](#)

Statement of U.S. Rep. Brad Miller on TCE Health Assessment

Rep. Brad Miller issued the following statement regarding EPA's release of its new health assessment for trichloroethylene (TCE) last week. The health assessment characterized TCE as "carcinogenic to humans."

"It's about time. Despite the fact that TCE has been widely used since the 1920's and is one of the most frequently occurring contaminants in Superfund sites, the TCE assessment at EPA has been in the works since 1989. Polluted communities waited 21 years to find out just how toxic this chemical is. Influence by industry and polluting executive branch agencies has kept the TCE risk assessment from seeing the light of day.

The men and women who served at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC between the 1950s and the 1980s, make up one of the largest of these communities. They have been waiting for decades to understand just what they were exposed to and how it might have affected their health. The Marine Corps should notify these men and women about this new information regarding the risks associated with their exposure. Additionally, I hope the Veterans Affairs

Administration will look at these findings closely when making determinations about disability benefits for those stationed at Camp Lejeune.

Marines and their families were exposed to TCE and other toxic chemicals at Camp Lejeune through no fault of their own. This new health assessment by the EPA is a reminder that it is high time for them to get the care that they deserve.”

###